

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner of this application, together with the cited references, has been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claim 1 has been amended and claim 14 has been added to define more clearly the patentable invention applicants believe is disclosed herein. Moreover, claim 6-10, and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 11 and 13 were previously cancelled and claims 2-5 are unchanged by the present amendment paper. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

The present invention includes a communication server interface that facilitates the transfer of data between an instrument tracking client and an antimicrobial treatment device. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a communications server interface as now defined by independent claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0137653 to Friedman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,896 to Sanaka et al. It is respectfully submitted that the applicants' invention as presently defined by the amended claims, is neither taught nor suggested by either of the cited references. In particular, neither of the cited references includes a communications server interface that receives data from an instrument tracking client, wherein the received data includes a device identifier, a load identifier, and an operator identifier, as defined by independent claim 1. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that neither cited reference teaches or suggests a communications server interface that transmits data to an antimicrobial treatment device, wherein the transmitted data includes a device identifier, a load identifier and an operator identifier. As defined in independent claim 1, the load identifier identifies one or more medical instruments treated together using an antimicrobial treatment device identified by a device identifier. An operator identifier identifies an operator of the antimicrobial device.

The remaining claims depend from independent claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are likewise patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed above.

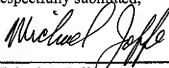
The cited reference made of record and not relied upon has also been reviewed. It is respectfully submitted that this additional reference does not teach or suggest the applicants' invention as defined by the present claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters that need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. ST8774US.

Date: May 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Jaffe
Registration No. 36,326

Kusner & Jaffe
Highland Place – Suite 310
6151 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
(440) 684-1090 (phone)
(440) 684-1095 (fax)

MAJ/lc